



Colwich Parish Council

INCORPORATING WOLSELEY BRIDGE, COLWICH, GREAT HAYWOOD & LITTLE HAYWOOD

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2021 No. 108

Christmas lights 2021

Colwich Parish Council is delighted to announce that, after the disappointment of having to cancel last year's switch-on event, we will be hosting a live Christmas Lights Switch-on event this year on Saturday 27th November at the Jubilee Playing Field.

The event will run from 6pm to 8pm with the light switch-on planned for 7pm. We have invited our 3 primary schools to once again entertain us with a selection of Christmas music. To assist the choirs, we are hiring a quality sound system.

Refreshments will include:

Drinks

- Vine Inn Brewery with a selection of Christmas beers and flavoured gins;
- Mr Bridgers Bubbles with their mulled wine 2Chefs Catering serving tea, coffee and special hot chocolate.

Food

- Staffordshire Woodfired Pizza;
- 2Chefs Catering serving toasted wraps and loaded fries
- Mexibros Mexican street food (new for 2021)

All of these companies have agreed to make a donation from takings towards our charity "Little Laura".

The Mini Bloomers will also have a stall so children will be able to decorate

a bauble for Christmas, for a small donation. These will be used to decorate the village Christmas trees. They also hope to sell some gifts for the children, such as goodie bags, reindeer food, hot chocolate gifts and sweetie tubes.

We will again be lighting trees at Colwich Primary School, the Parish Office in Little Haywood and in the Main Square in Great Haywood. We also have small, wall mounted trees on the Sports and Social Club and the Parish Office. This year we are looking to expand the joy and will be installing a tree and additional lights at the Jubilee Playing Field. The Parish Council has, over the last couple of years, been running the best Christmas decorated house and street competitions.

We are, therefore, delighted to launch this year's event and enclose an application form with this Newsletter. The competition will, once again, be judged by residents along similar lines to the Scarecrow competition (see results of the 2021 competition below) and we invite villagers to visit the entrants and score each one out of 10.

Let us have a great evening and help us raise funds for this fantastic local charity. Let us spread joy, cheer and hope for a better 2022.



COLWICH PARISH IN BLOOM

Following the similar success of our Colwich and Little Haywood group in 2019, last year's competition being cancelled because of Covid, Great Haywood group have achieved the 2021 RHS Britain in Bloom Gold Award for our exceptional work in the village. The competition this year was by a digital portfolio only and was based on the 3 RHS core values of Horticulture, Environment and Community Involvement. We are grateful for the help of the various local voluntary organisations who submitted information of their activities for inclusion in our portfolio and for Colwich Parish Council's sponsorship of plants and accessories.

In the RHS 2021 It's Your Neighbourhood appraisal scheme Shugborough Terrace, Friends of Crossheads and the Queen's Sapphire Jubilee Community Orchard all achieved the highest accolade of Level 5 'Outstanding'.

In response to this wonderful result, Cllr Wendy Plant, Chairman of Colwich Parish Council sent the attached message to the In Bloom team:

"On behalf of Colwich Parish Council, I would like to congratulate you on your hard work and well done for winning Gold for Great Haywood in the RHS Britain in Bloom Award. You help to make the villages look so lovely, thank you".

Wendy Plant,
Chairman, Colwich Parish Council

HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Looking forward to June 2022? As you know, next June HM Queen Elizabeth II will be celebrating her Platinum jubilee. The whole country will be celebrating with her, and Colwich parish will be no exception. Many of you, in response to the JPF questionnaire, have asked for the reintroduction of a village fete. This is a great opportunity for all of us to put on an event. If you would like to get involved, please come along to the Parish Office on Thursday 11th November at 7.30pm. If you want to contact me in advance, please contact me on Wendy.plant@colwichparishcouncil.gov.uk. If you can't make it on the night, but would like to join via MS Teams, please notify me and I will forward a link.

If the date is a diary clash, let me know and I'll let you know the future meeting dates. Bring your ideas, your enthusiasm, and your energy. Let's make this a great event.



MINI BLOOMERS

Off the back of the crochet madness, front page Summer Newsletter number 107, we spoke to Lisa Thompson to see what else she and the In Bloomers have been up to.

Lisa mentioned that Pam Reeves, one of our local child minders, had contacted her to ask whether her “children” could get involved with the In Bloom team. The In Bloomers were delighted with this approach and came up with the idea of the children painting recycled pots and planting them to display in Great Haywood. Thus, the Mini-Bloomers were born!

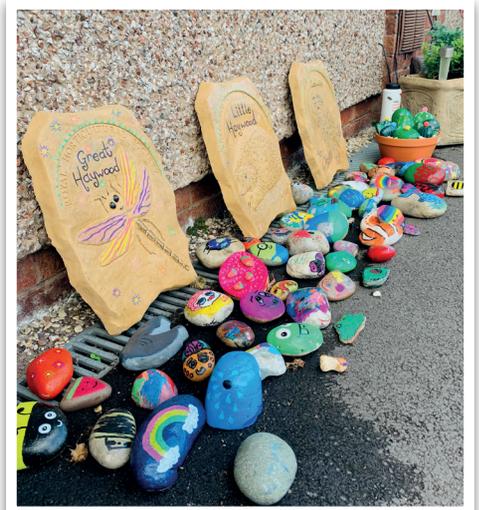
Lisa said “The children absolutely loved getting involved and their fantastic hard work is now proudly displayed opposite The Clifford Arms. This idea was great for the community spirit and the children had lots of fun. BBC Radio Stoke contacted me to do a live Saturday morning interview and some of the children got to be interviewed the following week live on air! What a job they did!”

Lisa continued: “We wanted to give the children something to get involved with over the summer period and so “Stone Fest” began to create the most beautifully painted stones with winners for all age groups.”

“Pam and I, with the kind permission of the Parish Council, set up a painting station at the Jubilee Playing Field on 31st July. It was a great opportunity to meet some children and have fun!

We had lots of different visitors in the morning and some even gave us a donation for the In Bloomers! These donations are gratefully received and supplement the £2,000 per year we receive from the Parish Council to help keep our villages clean and looking beautiful.”

Lisa concluded by noting that “Pam and I were at the Flower & Vegetable Show on 19th September where we sold some indoor plants and pots I bought through the summer period. Christine Goodwin our village crochet lady gifted us some wind spinners to sell. We also had lots of painted stones for people’s gardens. We raised a magnificent £130 for the work of the In Bloom team which was a huge achievement”



Stone winners:

Age 0-6 winners:

Age 7-15 winners:

Age 16+ winners:

Jasmine (6); Áine (6); George (5)

Georgia (11); Katy (11); Savannah (8)

Andy & Naomi.



Rubber Bands

The Royal Mail calculated they get through two million rubber bands per day and that in the past five years they have spent almost £5m on four billion bands.

We approached Royal Mail to ask how can people help. They replied: “You can post elastic bands straight into our Postboxes, no address required. If they're usable we'll reuse them, if not then they'll be recycled.

Tom, Royal Mail Help (@RoyalMailHelp) July 22, 2021

OPEN GARDENS

Beautiful gardens! Delicious cakes! And a superb result for Katharine House Hospice!



Despite the difficulties of ensuring safety during a pandemic, Great Haywood opened our gardens to the public on 15th August in aid of the Hospice. It was a wonderful opportunity for people to get out and about again. And even the rain held off until late in the afternoon – a miracle for that week if you recall!

Although there were fewer than the usual number of gardens open, the quality and variety was as stunning as ever, from quiet oases to a rather cheeky monkey in a banana tree and an eye-catching folly, from a miniature train filled with flowers to the Cliff Road community orchard which now has over 30 varieties of fruit trees.



Great Haywood Memorial Hall served refreshments in a covid-safe environment and a team made sure there was a constant supply of drinks, meals and cakes.

The Day was organised by the Katharine House Colwich and Haywoods Support Group, a hard-working group of volunteers dedicated to providing financial help to the Hospice. The Group is rightly immensely proud to have generated funds of more than £65,000 since it was formed in 1999.

The Group's main source of income each year is the Open Gardens, normally held in July

every year. A virtual event was held in 2020, but this year we were delighted to be able to return to our live format. Due to the generosity and willingness of the gardeners to allow visitors into their gardens, as well as the support of the community, we have raised more than £1800 with this event.

Several other fun fund-raising events are usually held by the Group each year, including Music and Comedy Evenings and Quiz Nights – so watch out for these.

We very much appreciate the help we receive from other organisations and businesses in the parish. Everything we raise goes to help Katharine House support patients and their families, and continue to provide care for people with advanced life limiting conditions.

If you would like to learn more about our Support Group, or would like to join us, you can find more information on our website–

www.colwichkhospicesupport.com



CLLR STEVE HARDWICK

My name is Steve Hardwick. I have lived in Colwich my entire life; I was a student at Colwich CofE Primary School and a 'Sixer' in the local Cubs & Scout Troop. In recent years I have been assisting the In Bloomers in developing areas of Colwich and Little Haywood, most notably: Landscaping the new community garden by the Little Haywood Village Hall. I look forward to serving the local community on our Parish Council in the years ahead.



ALANA COATES - LONGDON

Seventeen-year-old Little Haywood 'A' Level student, Alana Coates-Longden, has become the first ever player manager in the Staffordshire Girls Football League.

The central defender took the reins at Stafford Town Under 18s at the start of this season – and has already got off to winning ways with victories in her opening two games.

Alana, who has been with the team for

nine years, was an ever-present in the team when they were crowned league champions in the covid-interrupted 2019/20 season.

She has taken the role while in her second year of A levels studying Biology, History, and Philosophy and Ethics.

Congratulations to Alana and good luck with the season and with you're A-Levels next spring.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I had the honour and privilege of presenting the awards and trophies at this year's Flower and Produce Show. It was a heart-warming event. To see Colwich and Little Haywood Village Hall with people greeting each other, the outside gazebos displaying the produce and the local groups who have worked so hard.

I am so proud to be part of the Community. A Community is a "social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, and often have a common heritage. I believe the residents of Colwich parish have a common heritage. It is a desire to live in a small rural village with the

beautiful countryside around and the joy of seeing familiar faces as we go about our daily business.

The word Communication has a similar root to Community but has a different definition. Communication is a message imparting news, views, information, etc. Community and communication are so linked in so many ways. My question to you is

"How would you like the Parish Council to communicate with you, our community?"

We currently use Facebook, our Noticeboards, the Website, and the quarterly Newsletter. That includes most forms of communication but what would be better for you? If you

would like to receive our newsletter via email, I'd like to hear from you.

You would receive an email with a link to the Newsletter and then you can read it on your laptop.

If this additional option would appeal to you, please let us know by contacting the Clerk.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our two new Parish Councillors, Jack, and Steve. I'm sure that they will be an asset to the Parish Council, and I look forward to working with them. If you would like to join Jack and Steve, please contact us at the Parish Office.

FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

With a slightly newer look, September 19th saw us make a welcome, and successful, return to Colwich and Little Haywood Village Hall.

It was a lovely sunny day and after looking around the exhibits, visitors were able to sit outside and enjoy a relaxing time socialising with their family and friends. The Show was spread out this year, with a one-way system, which we felt created a pleasant atmosphere.

Other highlights included enormous leeks, gigantic onions, amazing pencil drawings in the 12-16 year-olds' Class, and a visit from some real live Silkie chickens! The Committee would like to thank the amazing Chase Young Farmers for all their help and support, the Great Haywood WI for providing refreshments, the In Bloom group for entertaining our visitors with their stone painting, and of course everyone who entered and visited the Show. We were also glad to be joined by SinCH and Tony's Ices. All of the above came together to make a wonderful community event that was enjoyed by all.



THE WINNERS OF OUR TROPHIES WERE:

The Clendon Vase (Flowers)	J. Sarjant
The Sydney Rawlings Rose Bowl (Roses)	S. Morrall
The Rosern Trophy (Best Rose in Show)	S. Morrall
The Cys Dyble Cup (Pot Plants)	J. Maingay
The HW Hunt Company Cup (Vegetables)	D. Cottam
The Stan Hopper Memorial Plate (Best Vegetable in Show)	R. Stanley
The Morrall Plate (Longest Runner Bean)	S. Morrall
The Canalside Salver (Fruit)	S. Jones
The Little Haywood Ladies Club Cup (Bread)	A. Broome
The Davies Floral Art Challenge Cup (Flower Arranging)	M. Doehren
The Burbridge Tray (Handicraft)	M. Walford
The Jan Pugh Art Cup (Art and Photography)	A. Moody
The Bishton Hall Cup (Children 8-11 years)	A. Lycett
The Flower and Vegetable Show Trophy (Children 12-16 years)	W. Lycett
The Broome Junior Baking Cup (Junior Baking)	K. Hurley
The Alan Fuller Perpetual Challenge Cup (2nd overall runner up)	S. Jones
The Peter Handy Perpetual Challenge Cup (1st overall runner up)	J. Sarjant
The Earl of Lichfield Challenge Cup (Overall Winner)	D. Cottam

Well done everyone and thank you for entering. We hope that next time we can reinstate the full list of Classes, and if you have any other ideas or would like to help with next year's Show, please email-haywoodsflowerandvegshow@outlook.com.



SCARECROW COMPETITION

The Council were delighted that so many residents, both individuals and streets, took part in this year's annual scarecrow competition, as announced in the summer newsletter. As last year, we were very impressed by the level of imagination shown by entrants in the design of their scarecrows. This year's entries included, amongst others, Humpty Dumpty; The Revd. Michaela Angel, a cowboy and a water skier.

We also had a number of non-entry scarecrows appear including the Council's SEASONAL Lengthsman making his annual trip to the office and Mary the Cleaner, who stopped for a tea break on The Butts. As before, judging was undertaken by residents who were asked to score each scarecrow out of 10. The judging took place on the weekends of 4th/5th and 11th /12th September with results sent to the office over the following week.

The winners were announced on Thursday 7th October by Cllr Wendy Plant, Chairman of Colwich Parish Council.

Thank you to all those who took part and congratulations to our winners. We raised a fantastic £156.00 for Little Laura.

We look forward to next year's event which will be launched in our summer newsletter.

CLLR BARRIE BIRT SHIELD

27 Marlborough Close	1st
8 Hawkesmore Drive	=2nd
2 Kingscroft	=2nd
18 Haywood Grange	4th
4 Hazeldene, Main Road	5th
St Michael's Church	6th
Shelly Cottage, Main Road	7th
4 Hunters Close	=8th
68 The Uplands	=8th

CLLR AMYAS STAFFORD NORTHCOTE SHIELD

Billington Avenue	1st
The Uplands	2nd
Crossheads	3rd



The Lamp Post



Most people regularly walking past the Parish Office in St Mary's Rd will be familiar with the lamp post standing on the grassed area.

Originally the lamp post stood in Trent Lane, Great Haywood, the only street light in that lane leading up to the railway bridge & then on to Shugborough. In 2008 ABB (the company responsible for street lighting columns) decided that the old lamp post was unsafe and needed to be replaced by a modern aluminium/steel variety. Needless to say, the residents of Trent Lane disagreed with this decision, not least because a modern lamp post was totally out of keeping with the character of such a significant street in the village. In fact, it is said that one resident of Trent Lane, the late Peter Emberton (Chairman of the Haywood Society) was incandescent with rage at the prospect of the old lamp post being loaded onto a lorry and removed from our villages for ever. As a result of the concerns expressed, Peter Emberton entered into negotiations with ABB to ensure that the old lamp post was replaced by a replica that would maintain the character of Trent Lane and also liaised with the Parish Council for the old post to be retained in the village in a suitable safe place. Parish Council Minutes for March 2008 stated that

'the Clerk is in negotiations with ABB who are replacing all lighting columns to try and acquire the lamp post for outside the Parish Office'.

The negotiations were obviously successful as the post is still situated outside the Parish

Office as an ornamental feature with a strict provision that it cannot be used as a street lamp.

The situation at the moment is that the Lamp post is desperately in need of renovation and the Parish Council are currently looking into how this can be best achieved. In the process of discussing the project it was felt that a little more of the history of the post would be helpful and here begins the mystery. On close examination the initials CUDC are embossed on the front of the post and it is guessed that this probably stands for Cannock Urban District Council. How come that we have a Cannock lamp post when we aren't in the Cannock area? The question begins to arise that the post may have had a former life.

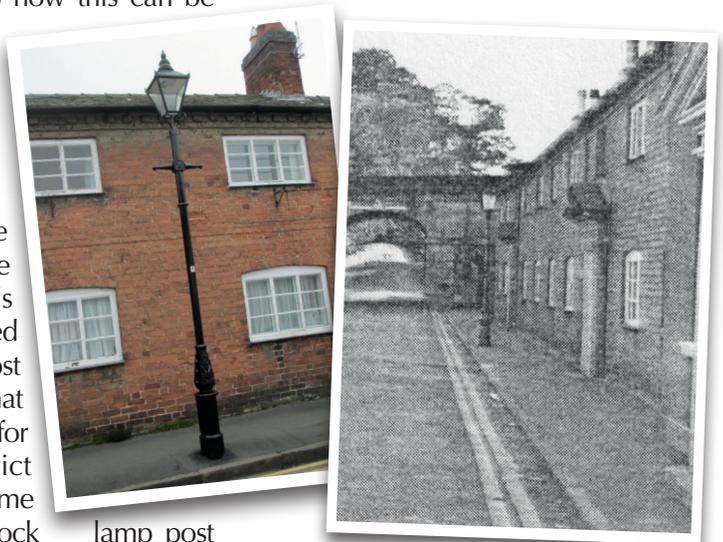
Old photographs of Trent Lane show no sign of a lamp post. A 1937 photograph of Main Road, Great Haywood shows that there was no street lighting in the village at that time. A Francis Frith postcard dated 1955 shows no sign of a lamp-post in Trent Lane. Two modern photographs show a lamp-post in its present position, one from 1977 shows

the original cast-iron post, the other in 2008 shows the old post being removed in order that the replacement post can be erected in the same position.

Herein remains the mystery. It is generally thought that the Lamp post must have arrived in Trent Lane in the late 1960s, being the first street light that the lane had ever had and that this older style post had been acquired from elsewhere to fit in aesthetically with the character of the area.

However, as far as is known there is no documented evidence as to who (and when) acquired the post and arranged for its erection in Great Haywood.

If there is anybody who was living in Great Haywood in the 1960s who can remember the arrival of the lamp post in Trent Lane, please let the Parish Council know. In the meantime, it is hoped that arrangements can be made for the refurbishment of the post including



re-uniting it with its lantern at a reasonable cost. It is a pleasant feature outside the Parish Office and deserves better than its present fate.

Moreover, it would be a fitting memorial to the late Peter Emberton who committed much of his time to preserving the character of our villages and succeeded in saving the lamp post from being carted off for scrap back in 2008.



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Clerk: Michael Lennon

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